

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated April 21, 2004 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), rejected claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and stated that claims 54-61 and 63-73 are allowed.

As indicated above, claims 1-2, 4-7 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the current set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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